

MOTION BY SUPERVISORS SHEILA KUEHL AND CHAIR HILDA SOLIS

March 8, 2016

In January 2015, the Los Angeles County Point-in-time homeless count found that, on any given night in our County, 44,359 men, women and children are experiencing homelessness. This represents an increase in homelessness of over 12 percent since 2013. The County also has the nation's largest homeless veteran population. In 2015, the County had 4,366 of the nation's 47,725 homeless veterans, and accounted for 2,894 (18 percent) of the nation's 16,220 homeless veterans who are unsheltered – that is, who live in places not meant for human habitation, such as sidewalks, parks, cars, and abandoned buildings. Additionally, in December 2015, 16,407 families receiving CalWORKs assistance in the County reported that they were experiencing homelessness.

On February 9, 2016, this Board approved a comprehensive set of 47 strategies, plus various administrative actions, to combat the problem of homelessness in the County. These strategies seek to address the root causes of homelessness and to lift thousands of families and individuals out of homelessness and into better lives. Implementing these strategies will require significantly more funding than is now

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being devoted. On February 9, 2016, President Obama released his Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2017 Budget, which, if enacted, would significantly increase Federal funding to address homelessness. Most notably, the President requested approximately \$11 billion in mandatory funding for a new Homeless Assistance for Families Program, which would fund short- and long-term rental assistance for nearly 550,000 families with children over the next 10 years. Proposed annual funding for the program gradually would grow from \$79 million in FFY 2017 to over \$2 billion by FFY 2026.

The President also requested FFY 2017 funding increases of \$414 million for Homeless Assistance Grants to \$2.664 billion and \$88 million to fund 10,000 new housing choice vouchers for use by homeless families with children. The President's Proposed Budget, however, does not include funding for new Housing and Urban Development/Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing (HUD/VASH) vouchers, which are critically important for ending homelessness among veterans and linking housing for veterans with needed case management and supportive services. Funding for HUD-VASH vouchers was cut by 20 percent to \$60 million in FFY 2016 from its annual funding level of \$75 million in the four previous fiscal years.

I, THEREFORE, MOVE that the Board of Supervisors instruct the Chief Executive Officer and the Washington, D.C. Advocates to:

1. Support President Obama's budget request of \$11 billion in mandatory funding over 10 years for a new Homeless Assistance for Families Program; and
2. Support appropriations of \$75 million for new HUD-VASH vouchers, \$88 million for housing choice vouchers to assist homeless families with children, \$2.664 billion for Homeless Assistance Grants in FFY 2017; and

3. Prepare and send a 5-signature letter to the County's Congressional Delegation in support of the President's Homeless Assistance for Families Program and support for increased appropriations for homeless programs as noted above.

S:MR/President's Budget Request